



ALL OUR KIN INC.

A SAFE AND LOVING PLACE WHERE PARENTS AND CHILDREN CAN LEARN

February 24, 2014

Dear Senator Bye, Representative Walker, and Members of the Appropriations Committee,

My name is Judith Serrano. I've been working with children for over fifteen years. I decided to open my home daycare three and a half years ago, and that's when I got involved with Care 4 Kids. I think Care 4 Kids is a great opportunity for low-income families that need to go to work, and that don't make enough money to pay for a good daycare for the kids. But the way they manage the paperwork is hard. It's a good opportunity if they do it right.

Some families did apply for the assistance, but they weren't eligible. Actually, I have a family that applied for Care 4 Kids and they have a very low income because only the mom works. The child's dad is a full time student at Yale University. So they weren't eligible. But he's not available to watch the child because he's a full time student. The other families that were eligible, they were still struggling because the Care 4 Kids rates weren't covering the full tuition—not even half. And they were struggling to pay for the rest of the tuition.

If Care 4 Kids increased the rate, families that live like this would be able to pay the leftover tuition. It would be less money from their pocket. I also wish that they were more responsible, had a better way to get the information. Honestly, they lose all of the applications, all of the paperwork. I even started doing it myself, faxing all the paperwork myself to make sure it wasn't the parents lying or something. But no, it was true. They were missing everything.

I think if this program runs the way it should run, it's a great opportunity to families to have great daycares. The parents can have the peace of mind that their kids are well cared for, and at the same time they won't have to work only for daycare costs but they can also work to pay their other bills.

Sincerely,

Judith Serrano

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